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### Solar Power for Provo Area Office



In an effort to protect our environment by becoming more energy efficient, the Provo Area Office contracted with Intermountain Wind & Solar to install a 25 kW Photovoltaic (solar) electric generating system.

The system consists of several basic components: 8 solar panel arrays aligned into two parallel rows ground-mounted on the south side of the office building; a Circuit Combiner box located next to the arrays; 3 DC Disconnect switches located above the Circuit Combiner; 3 DC/AC inverters located inside the building's electrical room; and a utility disconnect, production meter



and net meter located on the east side of the office building. The system will also feature a device that will allow us to measure electric output, diagnose problems and monitor and record overall system function.

The system will provide three phase power for the building tying directly in with the building's power system and the city's power grid, thus reducing the Provo Area Office's energy needs as long as the sun is shining. We believe that the office's power consumption will be reduced by approximately 10% with the recently installed system (the largest that the city will currently allow), but we left some extra space for more panels and installed an extra underground conduit in hopes that we will be able to expand the system in the future.

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### **Northwest Middle School Students Fish for Knowledge**



Northwest Middle School students enjoyed a day of classroom fishing

Students got an awesome Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) presentation for the last two days of school from the Regional Communications Specialist, Stacey Smith. On June 2 and 3, about 125 Northwest Middle School students enjoyed a day of classroom fishing and a lesson on social dilemmas related to natural resources. This presentation was part of Northwest's campaign to engage students by inviting local professionals to present in their classrooms.



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Once again, Northwest students desire to learn left a positive impression of the outstanding achievements and future leaders from this north side school. The combination of high standards and respect make this a great place to learn.

To make sure these school visits have the biggest impact on Northwest students, science teacher, Delores Frison requires a short quiz after these presentations to ensure the basic message was received. Always promoting higher learning, students answered questions regarding next level of education. In addition, prior to the presentation the curriculum for the week is emailed for cross-reference. This platform also gives students a venue to interact with professionals currently working in their local area.

“Compare this with the use of non-renewable resources like water or fish: When water is used at a higher rate than the reservoirs are replenished or fish consumption exceeds its reproductive capacity then we face a tragedy of the commons. This will be your motivation, now let’s begin.”

During this simulation, students were grouped into teams of five. Each student represents the head of a family; as the head of the family, they are responsible for catching fish to feed their family (fish is the only food source for this simulation). This activity is based on the same principals as Garrett Hardin 1968 economics theory “Tragedy of the Commons.” The tragedy of the commons is a dilemma arising from the situation in which multiple individuals, acting independently and rationally consulting their own self-interest, will ultimately deplete a shared limited resource even when it is clear that it is not in anyone's long-term interest for this to happen.

Not to completely bore you with the whole simulation, each group has a community pond that can support 20 fish. With the understanding that aquatic ecosystems in real life cannot sustain unlimited numbers of fish (factors such as food availability, water quality, habitat, etc.) have to be considered. During each round of the simulation, either pond could spontaneously reproduce offspring or larvae. A combination of Swedish Fish, Goldfish crackers, and Nerd candies were used to represent various stages of the fishes life cycle. We also used wooden skewers to represent the fishing pole.

The STEM initiative is a critical focus area of the Salt Lake City School District and is inline with Secretary Jewell's “Play, Learn, Serve and Work ” goals associated with the Youth Initiative. This was my second visit to Northwest Middle School and the positive energy and gave me the energy to mentor and engage more students!

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## Engaging Youth – FCCO Participates in Summer School Program



Newcomb High School student contemplates her next move.

On June 4, 2014, staff from the Four Corners Construction Office (FCCO) participated in the First Annual Newcomb High School Summer STEM Camp. For 3 ½ hours, Pat Page, FCCO Deputy Construction Engineer, and Bernadette Fontenelle, a student intern under the Americorps Environmental Steward Program, presented information about the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project, fielded questions relating to the project, and had the students participate in the increasingly popular, Navajo-Gallup Board Game. The game, the product of a joint venture between FCCO and the Western Colorado Area Office, is a hands-on, interactive simulation of the challenges and rewards of the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project. The format of the game, where students choose a pipeline route and then have to work their way through, over, and around issues that arise as they flip over cards to reveal the next challenge, promotes participation, and it didn't take long before the students were fully engaged. Officially, ten students were signed up for the class, but by the end of the board game, several more had stopped by to watch.

STEM stands for “Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics”. The Newcomb STEM camp was the brainchild of Ms. Geizi Llanes, a Newcomb High School science teacher by way of the Phillipines. The theme for this this year's camp was “Promoting student and community awareness on the surface- and ground water quality at Newcomb and its surrounding areas”. Newcomb is located on the Navajo Reservation and is one of the communities that will be



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served by the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project.



Student Intern Bernadette Fontenelle, far right, observes while students read a flip card in the Navajo-Gallup Game

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## Juneteenth

Juneteenth, or Freedom Day, is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. It is derived from the blending of the words “June” and “Nineteenth” in reference to the official abolishment of slavery on June 19, 1865. To get a better understanding of how Juneteenth came about we’ll have go back in history.

On Jan 1, 1863 President Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation went into effect declaring the freedom of all slaves in the Confederate States not under Union control. While Lincoln did not have the sole authority to pass a congressional amendment to end slavery, he used his position as Commander in Chief of the Union Army, making the proclamation a military order. As the Union soldiers began to conquer the Confederate states an estimated four million slaves saw their first sight of freedom. This also allowed freedmen to join the Union Army to help fight in the war against slavery. This was a prelude to the collapse of the Confederate Army. In



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April 1865, General Robert E. Lee, the Confederate Army Commander, surrendered to the Union. Texas was the last strong-hold of the Confederates and of slavery due to the minimal amount of Union troops to enforce the Executive order. On June 19, 1865, almost two and a half years after Abraham Lincoln initiated the Emancipation Proclamation order, Major General Gordon Granger and 2,000 federal troops took possession of Galveston Island, Texas. In Galveston, General Granger read the famous “General Order Number 3,” which informed the state of Texas that freedom was granted to all slaves, including entitlement to personal rights and property. Upon receiving the news, Juneteenth was born.

To this day 43 states have declared Juneteenth either a state holiday or state observance. Initially, this was a time of family prayer and rejoicing with individuals who were former slaves. Today it's a time for celebrations by having formal thanksgiving ceremonies, public entertainment, and family reunions which feature dramatic readings, pageants and parades honoring the hardships individuals before them went through. We observe July 4th as our nation's day to celebrate independence. Juneteenth also celebrates independence as well as contributes to the fulfillment of our freedom and equality for all.

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## Communications at Glen Canyon



One of the cross-connect panels, about 500 lines had to be moved to new cross-connections the night of the cutover



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Marie Memmer  
IT Specialist.  
Glen Canyon Field Division

What a year it has been for improvements in communications at Glen Canyon. First we were able to go from one connection to the wide area network (WAN) to three, which gave us considerably more capacity and allowed faster uploading and downloading from the web. We installed a wireless access point in the powerplant office area which gives flexibility for both Glen Canyon users, and visitors from other regions who come for meetings or reviews. We upgraded our communications between the dam and the warehouse from a microwave system to a wireless system. We were able to greatly increase the speed of the link. Now our warehouse personnel have the same functionality that users in the Visitors Center and Powerplant have.

Most recently, we installed a new telephone system. We elected to go with a digital PBX, and installed 85 digital phones and reconnected almost 400 analog extensions to the new equipment. The Mitel equipment gives us many options the old system did not support—caller ID, conferencing, 50 number call history for incoming and outgoing...and more things we are still trying out!

We started this phone upgrade project in September 2012 by soliciting input from users on what features they would like to see. Two vendors came on site to demonstrate equipment that was available and that would work for us. Acquisitions worked with us on the procurement action, we had an award in September 2013, and were starting to receive equipment in November. Because everyone worked so well together, we now have the new equipment installed and in service!

There were a lot of people who helped get this project going and keep it on track. Greg West and Mike Molinaro at the Regional Office worked with us to coordinate with Verizon and CenturyLink on the communication circuit upgrades required. The vendor, Tope Technologies LLC, provided technicians ahead of the cutover to program the new equipment from our existing database. The team at Glen Canyon consisted of Jason Tucker, Stan Jones, Tito Sepulveda, Nick Nicksic, Scott Torrey, Chris Mauger, Bill Boisineau, Sonny Greene, and Marie Memmer. Jason and Stan provided the support from management that the project needed. Sonny worked with us to get the solicitation done and the award made. The night of the cut-over, Scott, Chris, Paul Lyons (one of the Glen Canyon Electricians) and Marie worked alongside the vendor's technicians to swap out the old phones for the new ones, cross connect the terminations at several locations at Glen Canyon, and then insure that phones were working. Scott and Chris worked with the vendor to program special features into the server. The bulk of the system was up and working by 11pm on December 10<sup>th</sup>, a day ahead of the original schedule. There were a couple of small problems that were addressed the next day, but nothing that stopped the system from working or people being able to use their phones and utilize the new features.

This was proof that with teamwork anything can be accomplished. So, give us a call, and see how high-definition voice communication from Glen Canyon sounds!

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## Anyone Can Be A Victim of Fraud!



By De Ann Brown  
Regional Office

Like many of you, I'm not wealthy and account for every nickel in my checking account. So imagine my surprise when I listened to a voice mail message on my cell phone informing me that a suspicious charge had been made to my debit card and to please call back at the 1-800 number provided. Having recently completed the FISSA training, I initially thought it was a social engineering scam and someone was trying to get my banking information! Between the training and news reports, I knew what to do. I went to my credit union's website and called the 1-800 number listed there and sure enough, my debit card had been compromised.

My credit union had declined a charge for \$180 at a pharmacy in some country in Europe. Although I have recently spent quite a bit of time in travel status, it sure wasn't in Europe! (At least that's what I'm telling folks here!) In all seriousness, I am grateful to my credit union for catching this fraudulent transaction. As I was speaking with the customer service agent, I learned one of their big problems is customers not keeping their contact information, to include phone numbers, up-to-date. Your financial institution cannot notify you of a potentially fraudulent transaction if they don't have your current phone number.

I don't know where or how my card was compromised. Fortunately, this story has an inconvenient, but happy ending. Although the thief did not have my PIN number, my debit card was immediately cancelled and my credit card will remain activated for a few more days. Both are being replaced within the next 5-7 business days. Until I get my new debit card, I can still use my credit card, or I can go "old school" and withdraw cash from my account and pay cash for everything! Or I can write checks (does anyone still use those?!). Luckily, I get to keep the same account number, so I don't have to change my direct deposit or bill pay. But I will need to change my debit information with the few online vendors I patronize (and yes, their sites are secure, you know – https and the lock symbol).

Keeping your contact information up-to-date at your financial institution is only one measure in the line of defense to combating fraud. A simple Bing search retrieved many more ways to protect your debit and credit cards. Also, many financial institution websites have tips for protecting yourself online, when using mobile devices, and at the ATM. We can't protect ourselves from every potential thief, however, knowledge is power!

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## UC Region 2013 Administrative Professionals of the Year

### Administrative Professional of the Year



UC Deputy Regional Director Ann Gold, Amee Baker and Provo Area Office, Area Manager Wayne Pullan

### **Amee Baker**

UC Regional Office, Resources Management Division

Amee has provided excellent coordination of policy and D&S reviews ensuring that they are reviewed by the appropriate individuals and offices in a timely manner. During a trying time of high vacancies and high volume of work, Amee's superior quality efforts have allowed the regional office to continue to provide the services of these positions and be responsive to internal and external customer requests.



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## Administrative Services Professional of the Year



UC Deputy Regional Director Ann Gold, Radhika Harris and Provo Area Office, Area Manager Wayne Pullan

### **Radhika Harris**

UC Regional Office, Human Resources Division

Rad was the only assistant in Reclamation to process all regional performance awards before the we were told to stop due to the budget and sequestration. She has helped facilitate and present at courses offered such as The Leadership Challenge, The Speed of Trust, and Aspiring Leaders. She serves as Santa's Helper delivering gifts to regional office employees during the holidays, uplifting morale and bringing cheer.

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## Mad Mallard Protests Xeriscaping Project



Here she can be seen performing some paramilitary

In an effort to conserve water and set an example to the community, the Provo Area Office (PAO) has been uprooting much of its water-hungry vegetation in exchange for desert-friendly plants. Everyone has supported these changes – that is, everyone but one angry and outspoken Mallard Duck.

Ducks, especially Mallards, are known for their unassuming and affable nature, but about two weeks into PAOs xeriscaping project, a certain female Mallard stepped outside of what one would consider to be normal duck behavior and, acting as an avian shield, began waddling back and forth protectively in front of a patch of ivy that was slated for removal.

*“We don’t know if it’s a personal thing or if she’s speaking for the other water fowl from the waterways around our building; we’ve never seen behavior like this before,”* said Howard ElPato, one of PAOs biologists. *“We were able to just, you know, shoo her away at first. She would quack and she would hiss, but then she’d leave for a while. I’ve gotta say though, this duck knows her rights; eventually she went right on into the middle of the ivy and laid a bunch of eggs.”*

The “rights” that ElPato is referring to come from the nation’s Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. According to its language, it is illegal to move or disturb the nest of any migratory bird. So, in a sort of political power play, this daffy little duck built a federally protected nest in the ivy, thus singlehandedly



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crippling the project and leaving the landscapers with no other choice but to move on to a different part of the project.

*“Yeah, it ruffled our feathers at first,” said ElPato, “but we decided to make something positive out of it – since we couldn’t mess with her or her nest, we decided to have a contest to guess when her eggs would hatch! And since we didn’t know exactly when they were laid, we didn’t know exactly when that would be. People in the office submitted their guesses and the winner got movie tickets. That was about all we could do.”*

Fortunately, eight ducklings hatched the morning of May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and promptly followed their mother out of the ivy to find water and food. Since then, the ivy has been replaced with gravel, rocks, bushes and a tree. When asked if he expected more trouble from the duck, ElPato said, *“Oh, she’ll be back, I’m sure of it. She’s a diabolical little quack. In fact, I’ve been conducting a bit of covert surveillance and I’ve snapped a few shots of her on my iPhone. She’s planning something for sure. And the ducklings are in on it.”*

So for now, in spite of the efforts of one Mad Mallard, the project is moving forward, but if ElPato’s predictions are correct, the PAO may be in for a fowl future.

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## Take Charge of Your Retirement



By [Tammy Flanagan](#) National Institute of Transition Planning

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The Thrift Savings Plan has been around for more than 27 years, so by now many federal employees who have been contributing since the beginning have sizeable nest eggs for their retirement years. In many cases, money invested in the TSP is the largest asset, besides a home, that a federal employee has control



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over. For many employees, the time is nearing to make the biggest decision of all: what to do with this money after they retire.

For those under the Federal Employees Retirement System, the basic retirement benefit and Social Security represent income streams that will last a lifetime. In many cases, they will cover day-to-day living expenses. But TSP savings have the potential of making the retirement years much more comfortable.

For many, the TSP has represented a significant learning experience over the years, requiring them to:

- Figure out how much to save out of each paycheck.
- Understand how to manage risk and volatility in the stock market and use bonds to offset some of the risk.
- Determine how to diversify between the varieties of TSP investment options based on the time horizon of when the money might be needed in the future.
- Understand the role retirement savings will play in conjunction with Social Security and a FERS annuity.

Most financial experts would agree that the TSP has been a success story. The balance in the traditional TSP funds was more than \$406 billion as of April 30. The participation rate in April was more than 87 percent for FERS employees.

Now that retirement is nearing for many federal employees who have been hired under FERS since 1984, the time has come to figure out what to do with this accumulated wealth. Of course, those under the older Civil Service Retirement System also have to determine what to do with their savings. But for them, the decision may not have as big of an impact on their overall retirement picture, because their retirement benefit may provide adequate income security.

## **Withdrawal Options**

For many people, weighing what to do with their retirement savings raises lots of questions, including: Should I keep the money in the TSP or move it to an IRA? Should I hire a financial adviser?

This week, Kevin Laird, program manager for TSP education and agency liaison at the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, which runs the TSP, presented a webcast with the Office of Personnel Management for agency retirement specialists. It was designed to help them provide guidance to federal employees who are preparing for retirement. Many employees will find the information presented in the hour-long program very useful.

When teaching my classes on federal retirement benefits, I like to quote the famous retailer, Sy Syms: “An educated consumer is our best customer.” For some employees, leaving their money in the TSP and using a monthly payment option or purchasing a life annuity might be the best choice. When the FERS basic benefit and Social Security benefit will not provide adequate monthly cash flow, an additional stream of income might be the best option.



Providing a monthly income stream is very easy to do directly through the TSP. You can get a monthly payment of a specific dollar amount or a payment that is computed based on your life expectancy. Or you can use some or all of your TSP funds to purchase a monthly annuity payment through a contract the TSP has with MetLife.

The monthly payment options allow you to maintain control of your TSP account while you are receiving payouts. You can modify your choices later, and you can leave the balance in your account to your beneficiary to withdraw as a lump sum or move to an IRA later on.

The annuity option is much more restrictive. The balance used to purchase the annuity is no longer available to the participant, but the tradeoff is a monthly payment that provides a lifetime stream of income. Laird used the word “guaranteed” to describe the annuities in his presentation, but MetLife includes the following [disclaimer on its website](#): “MetLife income annuities, like all annuities, are insurance products and not insured by the FDIC, the NCUSIF or any other government agency, nor are they guaranteed by, or the obligation of, the financial institution that sells them.”

The other option is to move your TSP balance to an IRA so that you will have additional investment options and more control over the timing and amount of your distributions. This requires adequate knowledge of managing investments, so that you don’t run out of money or make poor choices that jeopardize your financial security. If you don’t believe you have the knowledge and skill to do this yourself, then you may need to hire someone who can help you. I’ll cover that topic in my next column.

One last thing: If you missed the opportunity to enroll in the webinar series I conducted this month with Micah Shilanski, we are going to repeat it in July. The three-part series is called “FERS: Three Irreversible Mistakes.” You can [register for the webinars here](#).

By Tammy Flanagan

<http://www.govexec.com/pay-benefits/retirement-planning/2013/08/mystery-vanishing-service-credit/67946/>

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## Driving Safely Around Bicyclists

I’m a lifelong cyclist who logs more miles on my bike annually than I do in my truck. I’m also a former racer. I began bike racing in my early 20’s and typically rode 12,000 – 14,000 miles a year. I now commute to work all but a few days a year, and ride about 8,000 miles a year. In logging well over 300,000 lifetime miles on a bike, I’ve only been in a few accidents caused by cars (most of my crashes were in bike races).

I’m a driver too, and even I sometimes get frustrated with the actions of other cyclists. But there are some things that cyclists do to keep themselves safe that I think frustrate many drivers because they don’t understand why they do them. This is an attempt to explain why you might see a cyclist doing a particular behavior. Much of the information is from <http://www.bicyclewarehouse.com/articles/driving-safely-around-bicyclists-pg1177.htm>, but I’ve added some of my own insights as well.



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First, keep in mind that while everyone gets frustrated with other road users, cyclists are unprotected by steel, airbags, or other safety features. Even small collisions can have catastrophic results. So use extra care around them. And if you feel the need to honk, a quick beep is loud enough since they're not inside a car. You wouldn't want to startle them and cause a crash.

1. **Why is it...** that the cyclist in front of me at the red light is **positioned in the center of the lane?**



**Answer:** This is actually a sign of a smart road-sharer who understands that the detector beneath the pavement that trips the light won't work unless he gets his bicycle (which has much less mass than a car) on top of it. Unfortunately, bike-friendly intersections with detectors on the shoulder, especially for cyclists, are rare.

**Better Answer:** The rider is trying to prevent cars from making a right turn in front of them as the light turns green. It also allows cars turning right to make their turn while the light is red.

2. **Why is it...** that bicyclists **ride near the traffic lane even though the shoulder is wide?**



**Answer:** This is because they are more aware of, and more at risk from, road hazards. They are riding on the side of the road where the pavement is worse and debris tends to collect.

When you're driving you can't see hazards the way cyclists can. Drivers sit back and look out. Cyclists sit up and look down watching for glass and potholes that can cause a flat tire, and sand and slippery metal grates that can cause a crash (photo). They also watch for parked cars and exiting drivers who may swing their door open at the worst possible moment.

All these are reasons why cyclists often hug the traffic lane for their own safety. And, it's why the law reads that cyclists ride as far to the right as is "practicable." As a driver, pay attention and trust that the cyclist is riding where he has to to be safe. Simply slow down and wait until you can pass safely with adequate clearance and no risk to oncoming traffic.

3. **Why is it...** that cyclists sometimes **move into the center of the lane?** If they're supposed to ride as far to the right as is practicable, shouldn't they stay on the shoulder?

**Answer:** When you see a rider do this (called "taking the lane"), it's their way of telling you that they need to use the whole lane to be safe and that you need to wait for them to move over before passing. You'll see this on narrow roads where a passing car would pinch and endanger a rider making the mistake of staying on the shoulder. They are trying to tell you that there is not enough room for you to pass them without risking an accident with an oncoming vehicle or passing too close and causing the cyclist to crash. It also happens on steep downhills where a bicycle can go as fast as a car. The high speed also means that the cyclist needs more maneuvering room than provided on the shoulder. Simply wait and they will move over when it is safe.



4. **Why is it...** that cyclist's **ride side by side a lot**? I thought it was better if they drafted in single file?

**Answer:** While it's true that drafting behind each other saves energy, that's something racers are more familiar with than everyday riders. For most riders, just like you when you're driving in a car with a friend, it's nice to have company on rides and talk when riding. So, they'll ride side-by-side sometimes, which is okay as long as they aren't inhibiting the reasonable flow of traffic. Usually though, they'll only do this when there's room to ride that way and when the traffic is light. Hopefully, they're also mindful of traffic and ready to ride single file when necessary.

5. **Why is it...** that that cyclist **got all upset back there**?

**Answer:** There are a few common things that startle and endanger cyclists and can cause them to gesture or shout to try to let you know that you need to drive more attentively. One of the most common driving mistakes is turning across a cyclist's path unsafely. Never cut off an oncoming rider by turning left in front of them, or do it by turning right too soon after passing them (note that in many areas it is illegal to pass before an intersection when you are turning right).

Understand that since a bicycle is much smaller than a car, it's difficult to see them and judge how fast they're going. Don't assume that bikes are slow, either. They can easily travel as fast as cars. So, never turn in front of a cyclist unless you're certain it's safe. Otherwise the rider will be forced to slam on the brakes and it's much harder to stop quickly on two wheels. He may smash into the side of your car, get seriously injured and damage your vehicle, too.

Another dangerous move is passing a cyclist when you can't provide safe clearance. Bikers call this "getting buzzed." It's scary, dangerous, and illegal. Your side-view mirror may barely miss them. If you're driving a truck, it's even worse. The noise and rush of air could cause the rider to lose control and crash, falling into the traffic lane. For these reasons, many places now require drivers to allow a minimum of 3 feet of clearance. But in all locations, the law requires passing safely. This means slowing and waiting until you can move over and pass safely providing ample clearance.

6. **Why is it...** that when I come up on a cyclist at an intersection, **they get in the way**?

**Answer:** What you perceive as them getting in the way is actually them trying to make sure you see them. They may be going straight and often right-turning cars will come up on the left and then move right or turn right as the light changes and the cyclist is moving forward, endangering them. Cyclists who've had this happen watch for it and get in the way. But, they will do their best to allow room if there is enough on the right. They just don't want you to come up on the left and then turn right into them.

7. **Why is it...** that cyclists **don't use hand signals to tell me what they're going to do** at intersections. Drivers have to signal, why don't cyclists? I never know what they're going to do and it's dangerous.

**Answer:** In many municipalities, there is no law requiring cyclists to signal turns. It can be dangerous for them to remove their hands from the handlebars. Instead, it's considered enough that the cyclist lean in the direction of the turn, which is an indicator drivers can watch for. Some cyclists will use hand signals, but it's not always mandatory. It's best to be patient and wait to see what they're going to do whether they signal or not.



8. **Why is it...** that bicyclists **fix their bikes right near the road where it's dangerous**? Why don't they find a safe spot?

**Answer:** Usually this is because the most common bicycle breakdown is a flat tire. Unlike a car, you can't safely ride on a bicycle with a flat tire. So, cyclists have to stop wherever they puncture to fix it. If it's a narrow road with no shoulder, they will try to find the safest spot, but sometimes that's still pretty close to the road. When you see them, slow down and allow a wide berth because they're doing the best they can.



9. **Why is it...** that that cyclist is **riding on the sidewalk**? Isn't that illegal?

**Answer:** In many areas it's actually legal to bicycle on sidewalks. Usually it's where the roads are busy, narrow, or fast and it's safer to be on the sidewalk. You will also sometimes see kids riding on sidewalks because their parents told them to ride there since they don't want them in the road with cars. Some riders will also choose the sidewalk when the road doesn't seem safe to them. As a driver, it means watching for these cyclists, especially at intersections where they can enter from either direction and be obscured by parked cars.

While I rarely choose to ride on the sidewalk because I think it generally puts the rider at greater risk from drivers who aren't expecting them to be there, some people feel safer there. If someone has made the judgment that they are safer on the sidewalk, drivers need to respect their decision.

10. **Why is it...** that that cyclist I passed a ways back, just **passed me and all the other cars waiting at the red light** to get in front. Now I have to pass him again.

**Answer:** What might seem frustrating to you is actually a cyclist being careful, and moving toward the front for good reasons. He may be avoiding right-turners without their directionals on or not wanting to breathe exhaust fumes. Or, in a long line of traffic, he might have to move to the front in order not to miss the light. Note too, that if there's a dedicated bike lane, cyclists are free to move to the front in that, and you should not stop in it when cyclists are present.

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## In Transition

### Ryan Christianson - Water Management Group Chief

Ryan Christianson has been selected as the new Water Management Group Chief for the Bureau of Reclamation's Western Colorado Area Office in Grand Junction, Colo. Ryan has been with Reclamation for 16 years, starting his career in the Technical Services Center in Denver where he spent 5 years. Ryan moved to Durango with the Four Corners Construction office in 2003, later Ryan accepted a position in the WCAO as a hydrologic engineer, providing guidance on operations for our projects. In 2011, he accepted the Southern Water Management Group Chief Position. Ryan and his family moved to Grand Junction in June 2014. He is looking forward to working on the Aspinall Unit and other projects in the northern half of the office.



Ryan in Greece

### Former PN Region Employee Virgil Whiteley

Virgil Earl Whiteley was born Oct. 1, 1926, to Earl and Viola Whiteley in Walla Walla.



He attended Berney and Braden grade schools and graduated from Walla Walla High School. Upon graduation he enlisted in the Army Air Corps and served until the end of World War II. After the war he enrolled at Washington State University and graduated in 1949 with a degree in agricultural economics. That same year he married Esther Keith. Upon graduation he was appointed to a faculty position at WSU. A year later he moved to Walla Walla and worked for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in the planning of major water and power projects throughout the Pacific Northwest. In 1952 he moved to Olympia and worked for the chief of the Washington State Patrol to improve operating efficiency within the patrol. He introduced the first computer operations and the use of radar. In 1954 he returned to Walla Walla, where he worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. A year later he transferred to the San Francisco district of the Corps of Engineers. A year

later he moved to Sacramento and worked as a senior economist on planning and financing the California water project as well as many other water projects in the state. In 1962 he accepted a position as chief economist for International Engineering Co., in San Francisco and worked on water projects throughout the world. During this time he also served as a consultant to the Turkish government on its water projects. In 1966 he returned to work for the state of California. He spent two years as chief economist on a special water-quality study of the 11 counties



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surrounding the San Francisco Bay area. In 1968 he began work with the Department of Water Resources as an economist on a variety of water programs. In 1971 he accepted an exempt position in the department of finance under Gov. Reagan's administration. He worked on several areas including college and university budgets and others. He also served as personnel officer for the finance department. Upon the conclusion of the Reagan administration he returned to the Department of Water Resources and worked for the director of the department on financial and management of programs. His final work at the time of his retirement in 1985 was that of financial adviser.

Following retirement he returned to his hometown of Walla Walla, where he began doing volunteer work in many areas through the "retired senior volunteer program" (RSVP). Among those were Senior Corps of Retired Executives, the state health Insurance benefit adviser, as well as serving on the board of RSVP. In 1996 he helped to create "Friends of RSVP" and served as chairman until 2007. He also served for three years as chairman of the Walla Walla County Board of Equalization. He was a member of the Walla Walla Country Club, Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity and Walla Walla Historical Auto Club. He enjoyed old-car tours, playing golf and collecting old cameras. He received his greatest joy in playing Santa Claus to raise funds for nonprofit organizations, which he did for many years.

He was preceded in death by his two daughters, Barbara in 1970 and Marilyn in 1971; his brothers, Harold and Darrell. He is survived by his wife, Esther, the love of his life; two brothers, Glen of Spokane and Donald of Challis, Idaho; nieces and nephews.

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## What Is the Media Saying About Reclamation This Week?

11 rafters stranded overnight on Green River rescued

<http://news.vocus.com/?a=18009174951&p=19f&v=1&x=GVltlzgLT2hEEN76t4350w>

Water Lines: High water brings big benefits

<http://www.postindependent.com/news/grandjunction/11716798-113/colorado-cfs-flows-gunnison>

Lake Powell in northern Arizona rising steadily

<http://www.ksl.com/index.php?nid=157&title=lake-powell-in-northern-arizona-rising-steadily&sid=30275567>

Lawmakers spotlight massive Texas-New Mexico water dispute

[http://www.scsun-news.com/silver-city-news/ci\\_25945564](http://www.scsun-news.com/silver-city-news/ci_25945564)

Huge fossil found at Elephant Butte

<http://news.vocus.com/?a=18012510284&p=19f&v=1&x=HgZlZM6yyEzu2CO-vEjZ1g>

Udall says NM needs to stretch water supplies

<http://www.abqjournal.com/414312/news/udall-says-nm-needs-to-stretch-water-supplies.html>

By Adam Eakle

<http://www.ksl.com/index.php?nid=1107&title=quiz-for-june-7-2014&sid=30245858>

City not planning to dye or reverse flow of river

<http://news.vocus.com/?a=18051511662&p=19f&v=1&x=7QwXQXcWXmMRtlrBkMcZLQ>

No news is better news than good water news

[http://news.vocus.com/?a=18042800609&p=19f&v=1&x=t8\\_OE Fsb0MoQhjmveM8S\\_A](http://news.vocus.com/?a=18042800609&p=19f&v=1&x=t8_OE Fsb0MoQhjmveM8S_A)

Dam is strangling a river rich in beauty

[http://news.vocus.com/?a=18043595827&p=19f&v=1&x=U7ggLODtZnlh\\_D4RLnUAdw](http://news.vocus.com/?a=18043595827&p=19f&v=1&x=U7ggLODtZnlh_D4RLnUAdw)

Guest columnist: Lake Powell hydro powers the Dolores Project

<http://news.vocus.com/?a=18030998825&p=19f&v=1&x=B5s7uTWaCkZY8wwAZdet5w>

Bipartisan Policy Ideas You Don't Hear About That Could Change Your Life

<http://www.ozy.com/fast-forward/bipartisan-policy-ideas-you-dont-hear-about-that-could-change-your-life/31964.article>

Discovery of intact mastodon skull at New Mexico state park excites paleontologists

<http://www.techtimes.com/articles/8433/20140615/discovery-of-intact-mastodon-skull-at-new-mexico-state-park-excites-paleontologists.htm>

Faces of the Firsts: Educators draw on own 1st-generation background

<http://news.vocus.com/?a=18045186378&p=19f&v=1&x=KMv-shUDfkY00Fa25MQvQ>

Sierra County anticipates more visitors due to fossil find at Elephant Butte

<http://www.kvia.com/news/sierra-county-anticipates-more-visitors-due-to-fossil-find-at-elephant-butte/26483370>

Advanced Hydro Inc. Begins Demonstration at Brackish Groundwater National Desalination Research Facility in Alamogordo, New Mexico

<http://finance.dailyherald.com/dailyherald/news/read/27470599/advanced-hydro-inc.-begins-demonstration-at-brackish-groundwater-national-desalination-research-facility-in-alamogordo>

Udall Introduces Bill to Help New Mexico Farmers, Communities Address Drought, Water Scarcity

<http://news.vocus.com/?a=18058132759&p=19f&v=1&x=b0ID99ynGDUWqLseF5p5hg>

Western Slope Media Round-Up for Monday, June 16, 2014

<http://westernslopewatchdog.com/2014/06/western-slope-media-round-up-for-monday-june-16-2014/>

Strong Wyoming runoff into Colorado River system

<http://news.vocus.com/?a=18068269871&p=19f&v=1&x=8pbhKW17pjYqR1wb6kNMmw>

Endangered razorback sucker makes comeback

<http://www.tucsonsentinel.com/local/report/061914-razorback-returns/endangered-razorback-sucker-makes-comeback>

Endangered fish spawning in Grand Canyon National Park after 23-year absence

<http://news.vocus.com/?a=18100615048&p=19f&v=1&x=0jGeqmf2pdB73r8t90-68Q>

After A 22-Year Absence These Fish Are Back In The Grand Canyon

[http://news.vocus.com/?a=18092108445&p=19f&v=1&x=bt\\_4g0j9HOF-8L\\_iiE1Bsw](http://news.vocus.com/?a=18092108445&p=19f&v=1&x=bt_4g0j9HOF-8L_iiE1Bsw)

Locally Extinct Endangered Razorback Suckers Discovered Spawning in Grand Canyon National Park

<http://www.scienceworldreport.com/articles/15532/20140619/locally-extinct-endangered-razorback-suckers-discovered-spawning-in-grand-canyon-national-park.htm>

Endangered Fish is Back in the Canyons After 20 Years

<http://www.natureworldnews.com/articles/7667/20140619/endangered-fish-back-canyons-20-years.htm>

Colorado River researchers find signs of ancient, devastating floods

<http://www.latimes.com/science/sciencenow/la-sci-sn-colorado-floods-20140618-story.html>

Endangered fish now spawning in Grand Canyon National Park

<http://www.csmonitor.com/layout/set/text/Science/2014/0619/Endangered-fish-now-spawning-in-Grand-Canyon-National-Park>

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# Reclamation Trivia

Here's this week's set of questions:

1. In what year did July 4 become a paid legal federal holiday?
2. The skull and tusks of a \_\_\_\_\_ estimated to be \_\_\_\_\_ years old have been discovered at Elephant Butte Reservoir.
3. \_\_\_\_\_, or Freedom Day, is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of \_\_\_\_\_ in the United States.

Last week, We asked,

1. Blue Mesa and Morrow Point Dam began spilling 1,000 cfs on June 4, 2014 and increased to 2,000 cfs on June 5, 2014.
2. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Month (LGBT Pride Month) is currently celebrated each year in the month of June to honor the 1969 Stonewall riots in Manhattan. True of False
3. The State of Utah allows a person or entity to collect and store rainwater on their property in covered storage containers for beneficial use. Up to two storage containers under 100 gallons each are allowed without having to register with the state.

Last winner was – N/A

Please use this [link to send your answers](#). To be fair we will draw names from the winners and one person will receive a prize. We will reach into the prize bin for something suitable for the winner...as long as supplies last.

[Return to UC Today](#)



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